

VERTIGO

WILLINGHAM
BUCKINGHAM
LEIALOHA
GREEN



Nov '10

suggested for
mature readers
vertigo.com

WOLF VALLEY.

YOU HELLIONS
MIND YOUR
MOTHER.

RED DAWN

Chapter Five of Rose Red

THEY
WILL, OR
ELSE.

I'LL GET
THEM SETTLED AT
YOUR FATHER'S KEEP
AND THEN BE RIGHT
BACK.

I WISH
YOU'D *STAY*
WITH THEM, SNOW--
FOR A WHILE
AT LEAST.

AND WE'LL
HAVE RACES WITH THE
HOUSE WINDS!

AND SPEND
ENTIRE DAYS
IN GRANPAW'S
LIBRARY!

AND LOOK
FOR NEW PETS IN
THE FORESTS!

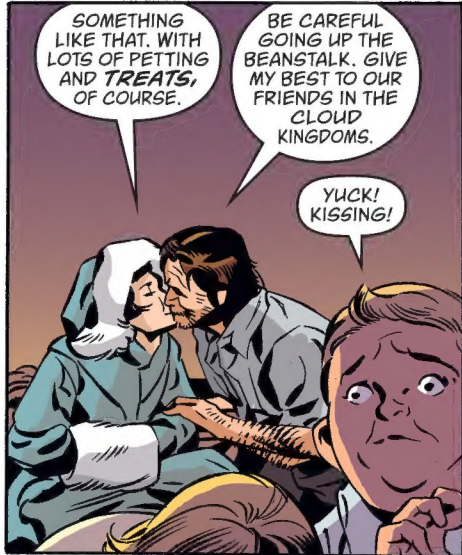
AND
PLAY IN THE
DUNGEONS!





NOT A CHANCE, COWPOKE. THE KIDS WILL BE FINE WITH THEIR GRANDFATHER. MY PLACE IS HERE WITH YOU, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN TO KEEP YOU CALM AND PEACEFUL.

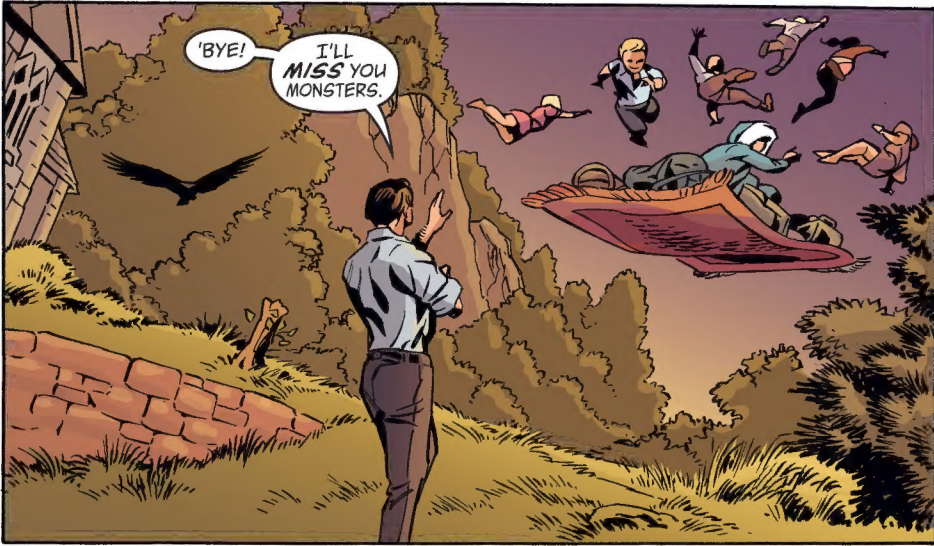
"NICE DOGGY"?
"GOOD DOGGY"?
"ROLL OVER, DOGGY"?



SOMETHING LIKE THAT. WITH LOTS OF PETTING AND TREATS, OF COURSE.

BE CAREFUL GOING UP THE BEANSTALK. GIVE MY BEST TO OUR FRIENDS IN THE CLOUD KINGDOMS.

YUCK!
KISSING!



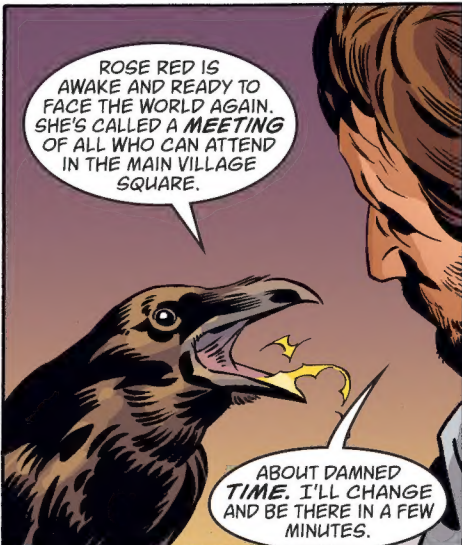
'BYE!

I'LL MISS YOU MONSTERS.



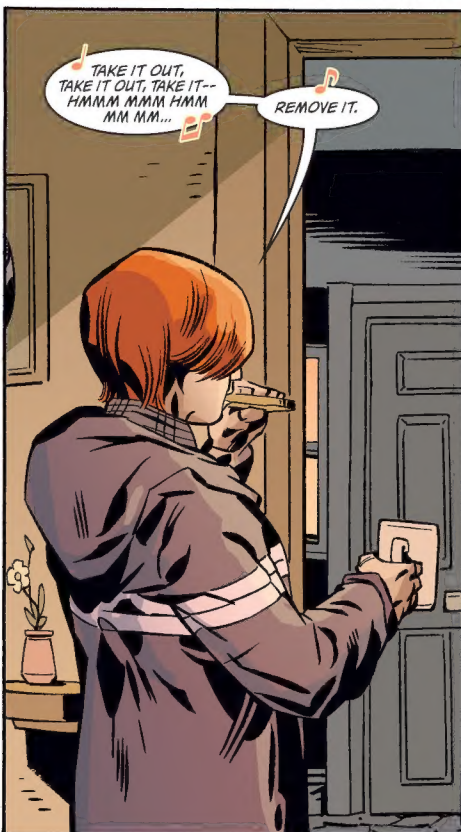
BIGBY. GOOD, YOU'RE ALREADY UP.

CLARA. WHAT BRINGS YOU OUT AND ABOUT SO EARLY?



ROSE RED IS AWAKE AND READY TO FACE THE WORLD AGAIN. SHE'S CALLED A MEETING OF ALL WHO CAN ATTEND IN THE MAIN VILLAGE SQUARE.

ABOUT DAMNED TIME. I'LL CHANGE AND BE THERE IN A FEW MINUTES.





GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE.

SORRY TO GET YOU OUT OF BED SO EARLY, AND OF COURSE I'M VERY SORRY FOR BEING ABSENT FOR SO LONG.

THAT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

NOW, I UNDERSTAND THERE'S BEEN SOME TROUBLE BETWEEN SOME OF YOU FOLKS, MOSTLY CONCERNING WHO SHOULD BE IN CHARGE OF THE FARM.

LET ME PUT YOUR MIND AT EASE, ON THAT MATTER AT LEAST.

I'M IN CHARGE.

PERIOD.

ANY QUESTIONS?

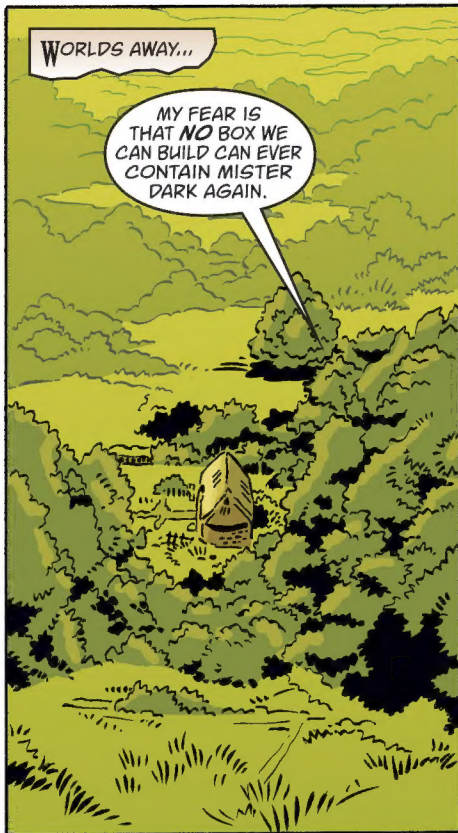
GEPETTO

GEPETTO FOR MAYOR

GEPETTO FOR MAYOR

GEPETTO FOR MAYOR

GEPETTO FOR MAYOR



WORLDS AWAY...

MY FEAR IS THAT **NO** BOX WE CAN BUILD CAN EVER CONTAIN MISTER DARK AGAIN.



HE'S ONE OF THE GREAT POWERS, AFTER ALL. HE'S THE DARKNESS THAT CAN NEVER BE ENTIRELY **ELIMINATED** FROM THE WORLD.

FROM ANY WORLD.



EVEN WHEN WE HAD HIM CONTAINED, HIS DARKNESS SEEPED OUT. ONLY HIS **PHYSICAL** MANIFESTATION WAS IMPRISONED.


YES, YOU'VE CONVINCED ME WE CAN'T BOX HIM AGAIN. BUT WE CAN **KILL** HIM.



POSSIBLY--WHICH IS TO SAY I SUPPOSE IT WOULDN'T BE **ENTIRELY** IMPOSSIBLE. BUT SUCH AN ACCOMPLISHMENT WOULD BE WELL BEYOND **MY** MEAGER POWERS.

AND EVEN THEN HIS DARK SPIRIT WOULD MANIFEST IN A **NEW** PERSON. CREATION CANNOT ABIDE A PERMANENT LOSS OF THIS FORCE.






IT'S LIKE THAT WITH ANY OF THE GREAT POWERS-- THE SPIRIT OF THE MORNING, OR THE NORTH WIND, WHOM YOU **CLAIM** TO KNOW PERSONALLY.

IF THEY DIED, OTHERS WOULD TAKE UP THE MANTLE. SOMEONE **ELSE** WOULD FILL THOSE ROLES, JUST AS SOMEONE MUST ALWAYS EMBODY THE SPIRIT OF THE DARK.

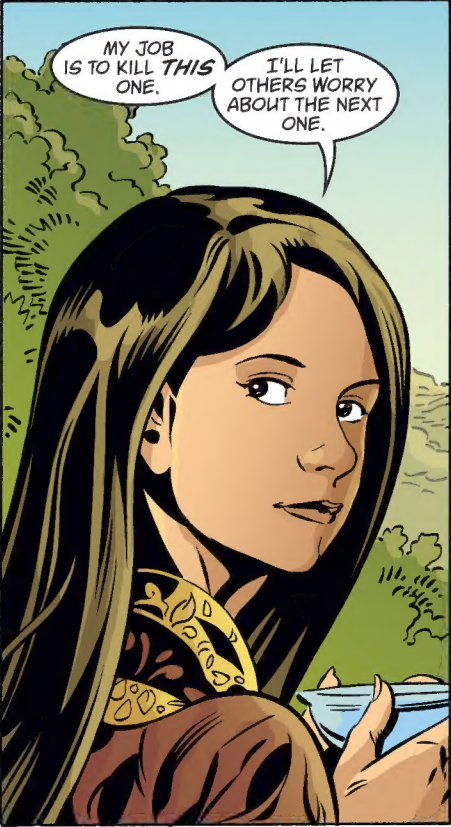


AND WOULD THIS NEW SOMEONE, THIS **NEW** MISTER DARK, AUTOMATICALLY HAVE THE SAME GRUDGES AGAINST MY PEOPLE IN FABLETOWN?

NO, I CAN'T IMAGINE SO. WHY WOULD HE?

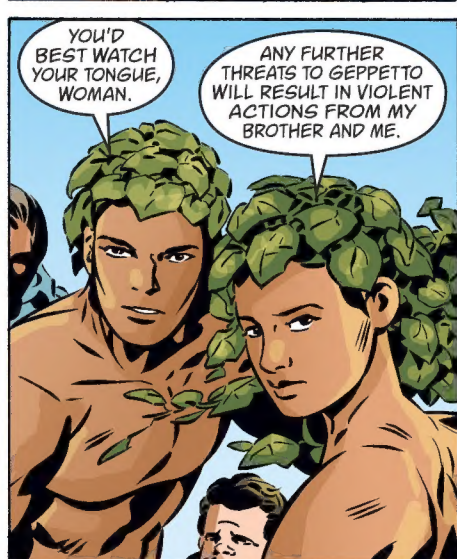
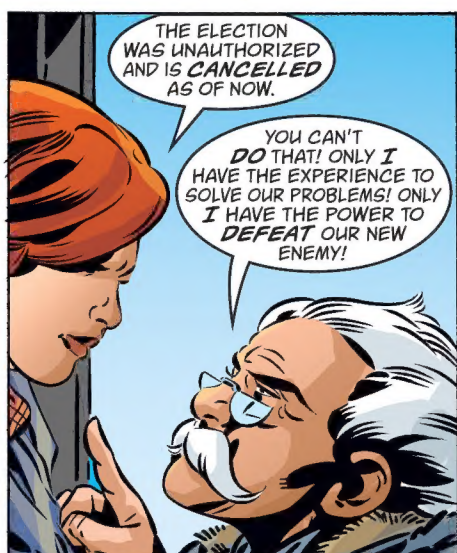
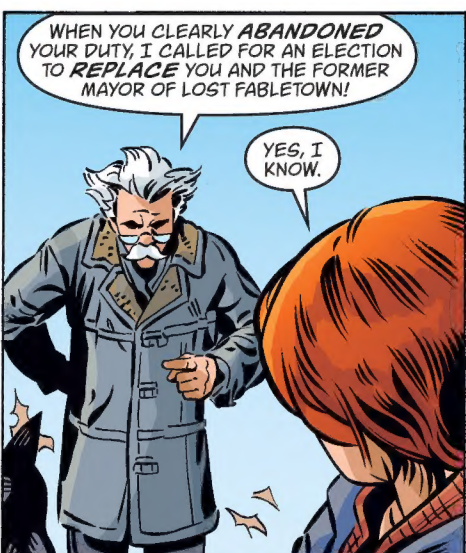


THEN I CAN LIVE WITH THAT.



MY JOB IS TO KILL **THIS** ONE.

I'LL LET OTHERS WORRY ABOUT THE NEXT ONE.





CLARA,
TAKE WATCH
OVERHEAD,
PLEASE.

YOU
GOT IT,
BOSS.



CLARA,
DO YOU
KNOW WHERE
GRANDFATHER
OAK IS IN THE
WOODS?

OF
COURSE I DO.
I KNOW WHERE
EVERYTHING AND
EVERYONE IS ON
THE FARM.



THE NEXT TIME *ANY* OF THESE
THREE BOZOS MAKES A THREAT TO ME,
EITHER VERBALLY OR PHYSICALLY, GO
BURN GRANDFATHER OAK TO
THE GROUND.

DO A THOROUGH
JOB. LEAVE NOTHING BUT
ASHES TO BLOW AWAY IN
THE WIND.

NO!



YOU
WOULDN'T
DARE!

DON'T WAIT
FOR ANY FURTHER
ORDER FROM ME, CLARA.
IF *THEY* ACT, THEN
YOU'RE FREE TO
ACT.

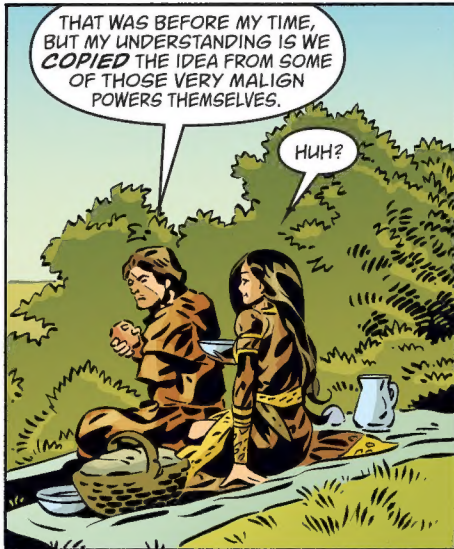
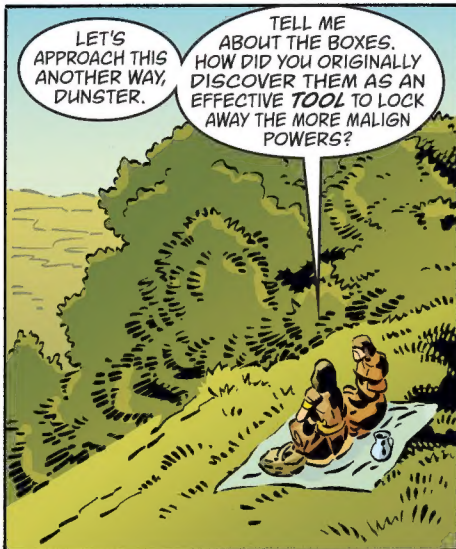
ROGER
THAT,
BOSS.



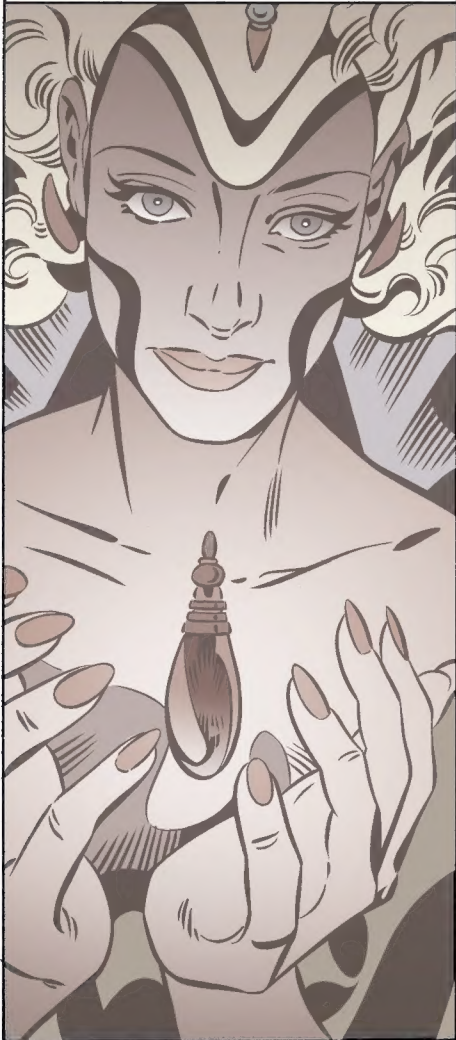
OKAY, FOLKS, I'LL BE IN THE HOUSE ALL
MORNING, READY TO HEAR YOUR INDIVIDUAL
GRIPES AND GRIEVANCES. LINE UP IN AN
ORDERLY FASHION AND BE *NICE*,
PLEASE.

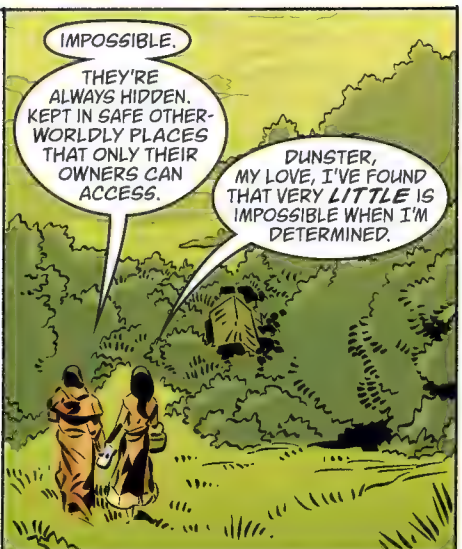
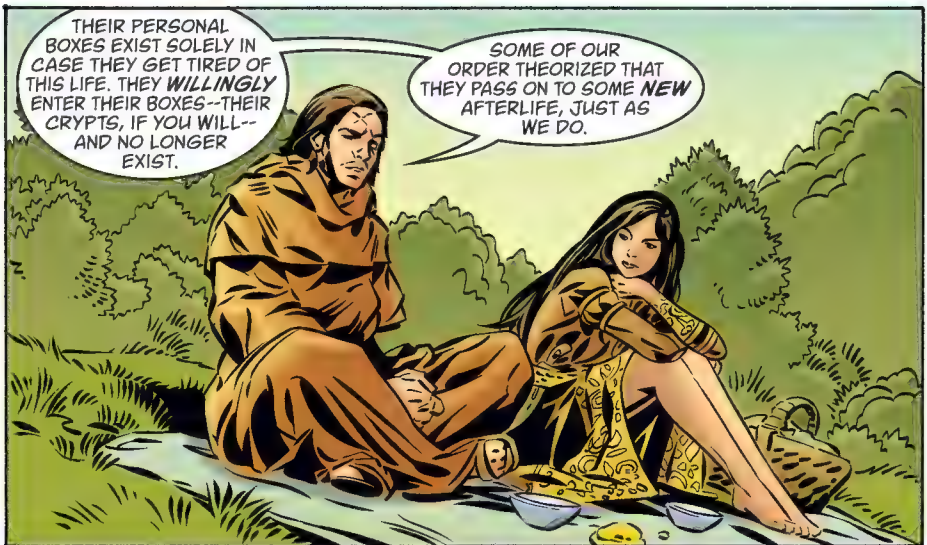
AFTER LUNCH
WE'LL MEET BACK HERE
AGAIN TO SETTLE THINGS,
OKAY?

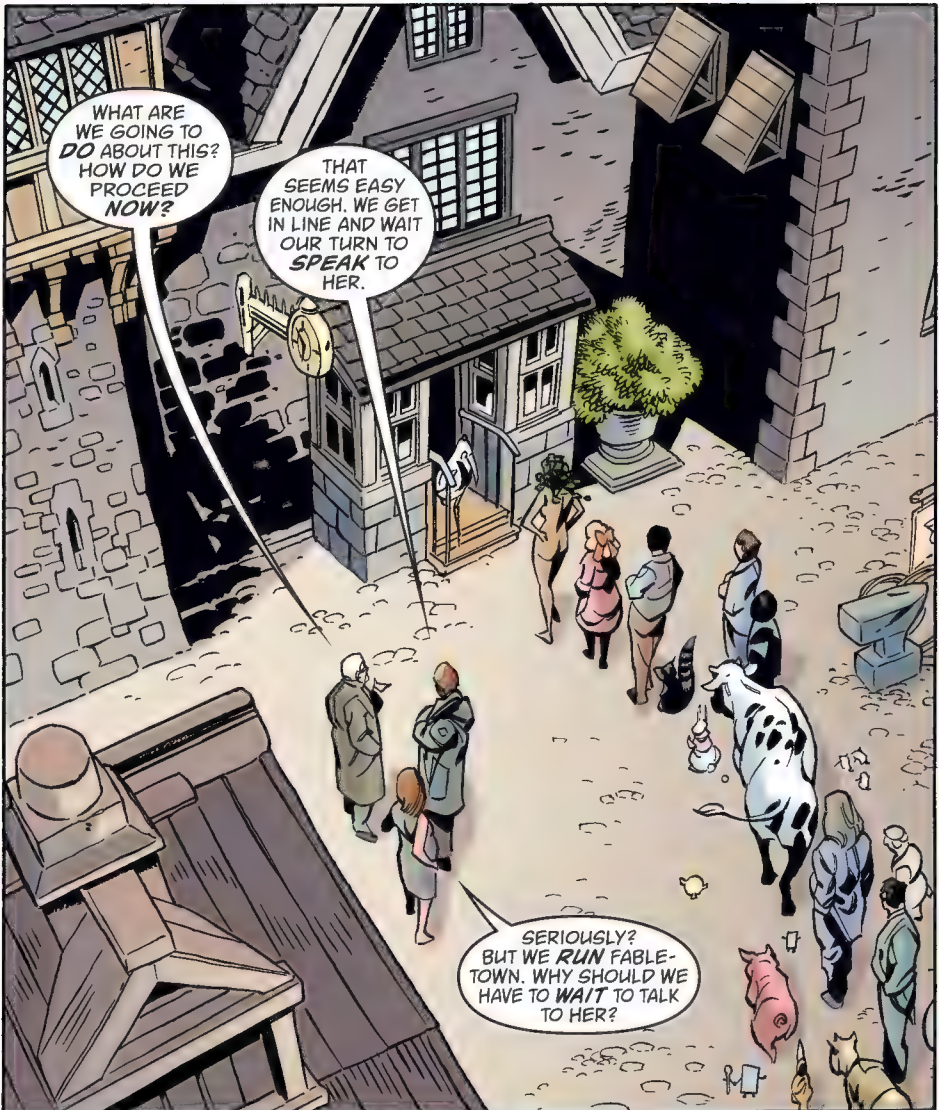




"EACH OF THE GREAT POWERS HAS HIS **OWN** PERSONAL MAGIC BOX ARTIFACT. FOR EXAMPLE, HOPE HAS HER PANDORAN JAR.



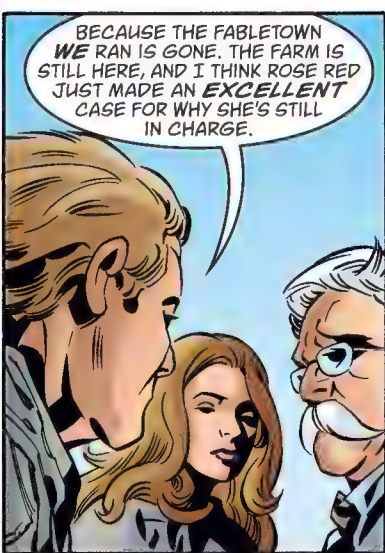




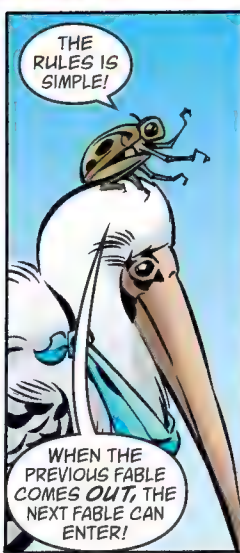
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT THIS? HOW DO WE PROCEED NOW?

THAT SEEMS EASY ENOUGH. WE GET IN LINE AND WAIT OUR TURN TO SPEAK TO HER.

SERIOUSLY? BUT WE RUN FABLETOWN. WHY SHOULD WE HAVE TO WAIT TO TALK TO HER?



BECAUSE THE FABLETOWN WE RAN IS GONE. THE FARM IS STILL HERE, AND I THINK ROSE RED JUST MADE AN EXCELLENT CASE FOR WHY SHE'S STILL IN CHARGE.



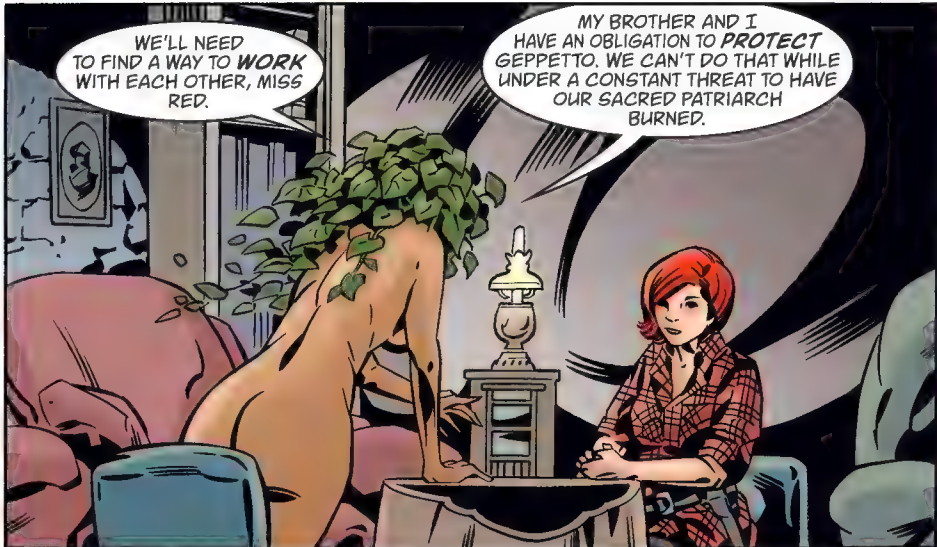
THE RULES IS SIMPLE!

WHEN THE PREVIOUS FABLE COMES OUT, THE NEXT FABLE CAN ENTER!



DON'T GET COMFORTABLE. ROSE RED DON'T HAVE NO TIME FOR LONG CONVERSATIONS WITH EVERYONE. JUST SAY YOUR PIECE AND MOVE ALONG!





WE'LL NEED TO FIND A WAY TO **WORK** WITH EACH OTHER, MISS RED.

MY BROTHER AND I HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO **PROTECT** GEPPETTO. WE CAN'T DO THAT WHILE UNDER A CONSTANT THREAT TO HAVE OUR SACRED PATRIARCH BURNED.



NO, PRINCESS ALDER, WE **DON'T** NEED TO FIND A WAY TO WORK WITH EACH OTHER, BECAUSE YOU TWO WON'T **BE** HERE MUCH LONGER.

YOUR JOB IS OVER. BY NIGHTFALL, IF YOU TWO DRYADS ARE STILL LURKING AROUND THE FARM, YOU'LL BE ARRESTED--OR WORSE.



BUT--?!



NO ONE GETS SPECIAL TREATMENT ON **MY** FARM. NO ONE GETS BODYGUARDS. I DON'T ABIDE HIRED THUGS. NOW, MOVE ALONG AND SEND THE NEXT FABLE IN.



I THINK YOU'RE ACTING DISGRACEFUL, AND ARROGANT, AND **RUDE**. YOU SHOULD STEP ASIDE AND LET MISTER GEPPETTO TAKE OVER.



HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE US, RESTORE FABLE-TOWN, AND RESTORE MY **MARKET** TO ME.

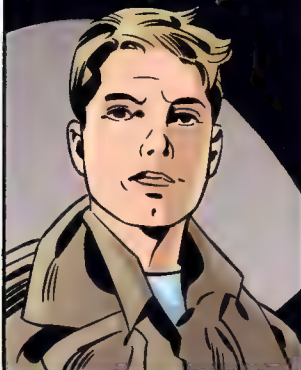


YOUR PREFERENCE IS DULY NOTED, MISS MUFFET.

NEXT!



TWO THINGS. FIRST, I DON'T WANT GEPPETTO RUNNING THINGS. I TOOK PART IN THE WAR TO **DEFEAT** HIM, AND I DON'T WANT THAT EFFORT WASTED.



SECOND, I'M ONE OF THE GUARDS ON THE TOTENKINDER GOLD SUPPLY AND I THINK SOMEONE'S PILFERING COINS.



I'LL LOOK INTO THE GOLD MATTER, JOE, I PROMISE.

AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE IN THE WAR.

NEXT!



I'M CONFLICTED. I WEAR THE BLUE NECKERCHIEF BECAUSE I WANT BLUE TO COME BACK AS MUCH AS THE NEXT CRITTER. AND STINKY'D GET **SCARY** MAD IF I DIDN'T.



BUT GEPPETTO PROMISES TO **KILL** THAT BIG DARK GUY AND GET ALL OF THESE CITY FABLES OFF THE FARM AND BACK DOWN INTO THAT NEW YORK OF MANHATTAN.



AND THE THING IS, I **HATE** THE CITY FABLES. THEY'RE BOSSY AND WHINY AND DON'T CLEAN UP AFTER THEMSELVES. AND THEY'RE LOUD ALL DAMN NIGHT.



I'LL LOOK INTO IT.

NEXT!



I WANT YOU TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE BLUE SCARF FABLES. THEY'RE ALL A BUNCH OF **RELIGIOUS** NUTS. I DON'T TRUST THOSE PAMPHLET-SLINGING NUTCAKES.



GOT IT. NOTED.

NEXT!



YEAH, I LIKE THE FEISTY LITTLE BADGER, SO I JOINED HIS CULT SO NO ONE CAN DISMISS IT AS EXCLUSIVELY AN ANIMAL FABLE VICTIM GROUP.



BUT I DON'T REALLY CARE WHO ENDS UP RUNNING THINGS HERE, BECAUSE JACK HORNER WAS RIGHT ALL ALONG. FABLETOWN IS DEAD. GONE. HISTORY.



I'M THINKING ABOUT EMIGRATING TO HAVEN. I HEAR FLYCATCHER KNOWS HOW TO RUN A SAFE KINGDOM. THERE'S NO BOGEYMAN DARKENING HIS DOORSTEP.



I CAN'T VERY WELL ARGUE WITH THAT LOGIC, THRUSHBEARD.



NEXT!

HI, ROSE. TURNING INTO A LONG DAY, I IMAGINE.



BIGBY?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY. I KNOW WE HAVEN'T EXACTLY BEEN THE BEST OF FRIENDS, BUT I NEVER EXPECTED YOU TO BE AMONG THE PARADE OF WHINERS AND COMPLAINERS.



I'M NOT. JUST WANTED TO SEE YOU AND WELCOME YOU BACK TO THE WORLD OF THE LIVING.



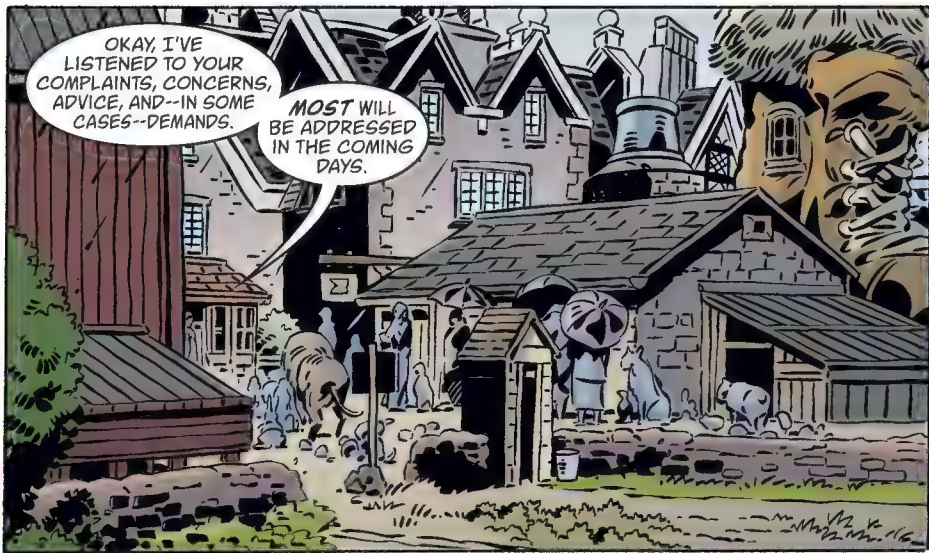
SNOW AND I HAVE YOUR BACK, KID.



ALWAYS.

NEXT?





OKAY, I'VE LISTENED TO YOUR COMPLAINTS, CONCERNS, ADVICE, AND--IN SOME CASES--DEMANDS.

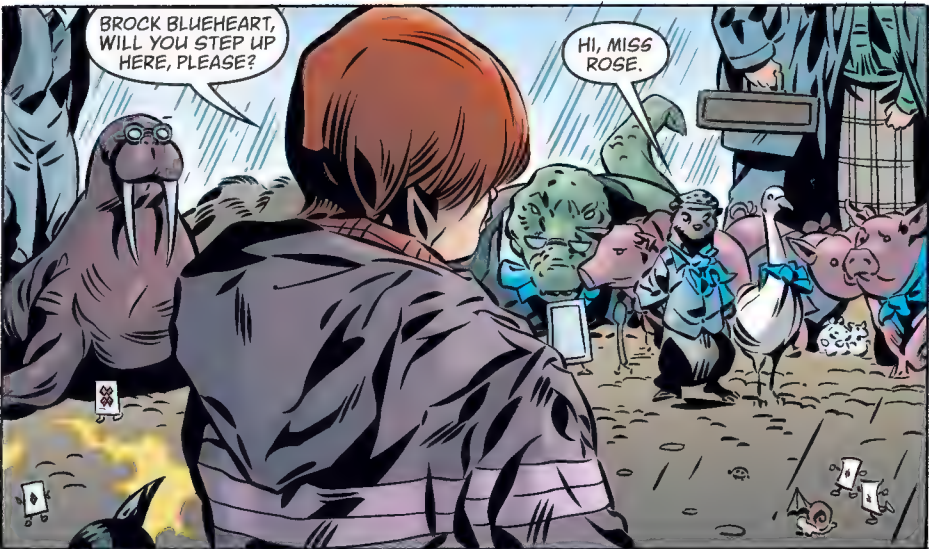
MOST WILL BE ADDRESSED IN THE COMING DAYS.



SOME ITEMS, HOWEVER, WILL BE DISMISSED AS THE USUAL CRANKY PISSING AND MOANING FROM PERPETUALLY INDIGNANT MALCONTENT.

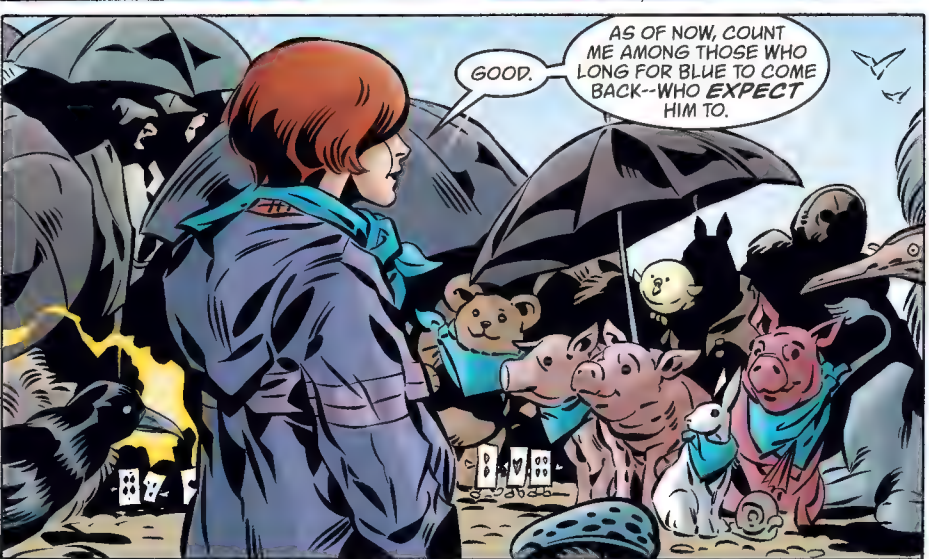
SINCE YOU TYPES WOULDN'T BE HAPPY UNLESS YOU'RE UNHAPPY, I WOULDN'T DARE TRY TO TAKE YOUR JOY AWAY BY SOLVING YOUR PROBLEMS.


NOW, I PROMISED YOU SOME OF THE BIG DECISIONS RIGHT AWAY, AND HERE THEY COME.



BROCK BLUEHEART, WILL YOU STEP UP HERE, PLEASE?


HI, MISS ROSE.






BUT WE'D HARDLY BE *HONORING* HIM IF WE DID NOTHING BUT SIT ON OUR BACKSIDES AND WAIT FOR HIM TO SHOW UP AND SOLVE ALL OUR *PROBLEMS* FOR US, WOULD WE?

BLUE WOULD *NEVER* ACT LIKE THAT, SO HOW CAN WE?



WHO KNOWS? MAYBE HE *WILL* SHOW UP IN POWER AND GLORY AND BEHEAD THE DARK MAN. BUT WE'RE STILL GOING TO GET TO WORK AS IF THAT'S *OUR* JOB.

HERE'S HOW WE GET *STARTED*.



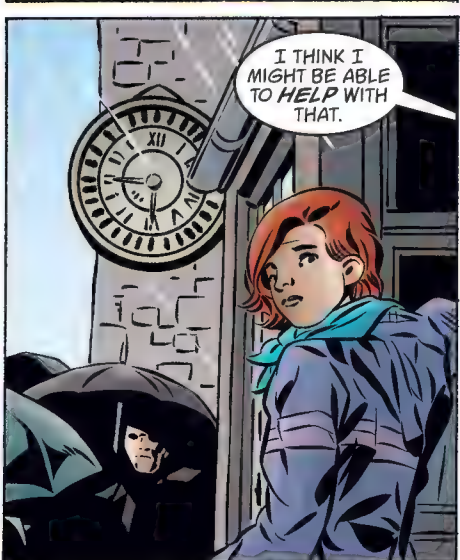
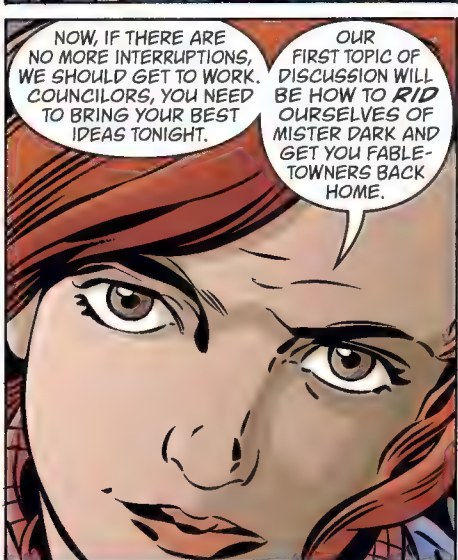
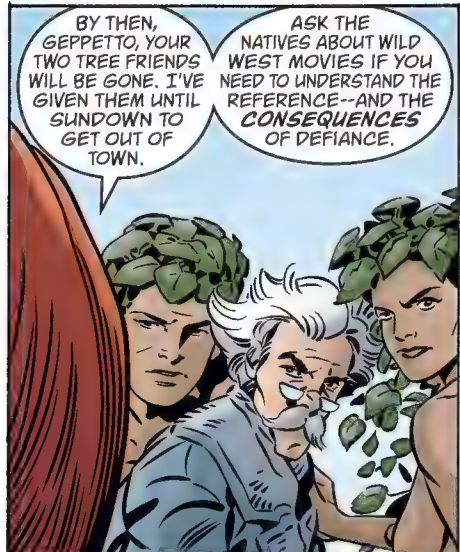
AS OF NOW, STINK--I MEAN BROCK BLUEHEART, OZMA AND GEPETTO WILL SERVE AS MY ADVISORS AND PRIVY COUNCIL.



YOU FOLKS FROM THE OLD FABLETOWN ADMINISTRATION ARE *WELCOME* TO SEND ONE--AND ONLY ONE--REPRESENTATIVE TO SIT IN ON OUR MEETINGS FROM TIME TO TIME.



BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT. YOUR SELECTION WILL BE AN AMBASSADOR, NOT AN INSIDER. THIS ISN'T FABLETOWN. IT'S *THE FARM*.





WHO--?

CALL ME BELLFLOWER.

I'VE COME TO SLAY THE DARK MAN IN A FORMAL DUEL-- SINGLE COMBAT.

AND JUST WHO THE HELL MIGHT YOU BE, LADY?

DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE HER, SHERIFF?

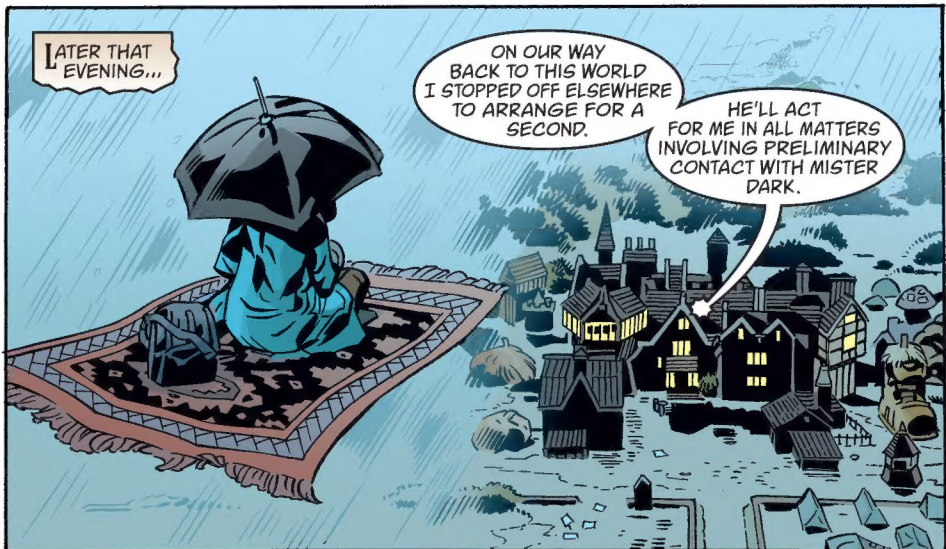
SHE'S TOTENKINDER, BUT YOUNG AGAIN AND BACK TO USING HER VERY FIRST NAME.

DANGEROUS GAMBIT. OPENS HER UP TO ALL SORTS OF MISCHIEF. BUT IT MIGHT ATTRACT AND FOCUS LONG-DORMANT POWERS AS WELL.

LATER THAT EVENING...

ON OUR WAY BACK TO THIS WORLD I STOPPED OFF ELSEWHERE TO ARRANGE FOR A SECOND.

HE'LL ACT FOR ME IN ALL MATTERS INVOLVING PRELIMINARY CONTACT WITH MISTER DARK.



WHAT CAN THEY BE TALKING ABOUT IN THERE FOR SO LONG?

HARD TO SAY, MISTER MAYOR. BUT BEAUTY WILL REPORT WHAT THEY SAID SOON ENOUGH.

IT'S A NEW DAY AND A NEW REGIME. WE OLD DINOSAURS OF THE PAST WILL HAVE TO LEARN PATIENCE.



GOOD EVENING, GENTLEMEN. BIGBY WASN'T HOME, SO I WAS WONDERING IF HE MIGHT BE DOWN HERE.

SNOW!



HE'S INSIDE, CONFERRING WITH THE REST OF THE WAR PLANNERS. BIG POWWOW ABOUT HOW TO TACKLE MISTER DARK.

THEN WHY ARE YOU TWO OUT HERE GETTING WET?

WE WEREN'T INVITED.



LONG STORY. WANT ONE OF US TO LET BIGBY KNOW YOU'RE HERE? KING COLE'S DYING FOR AN EXCUSE TO INTERRUPT.

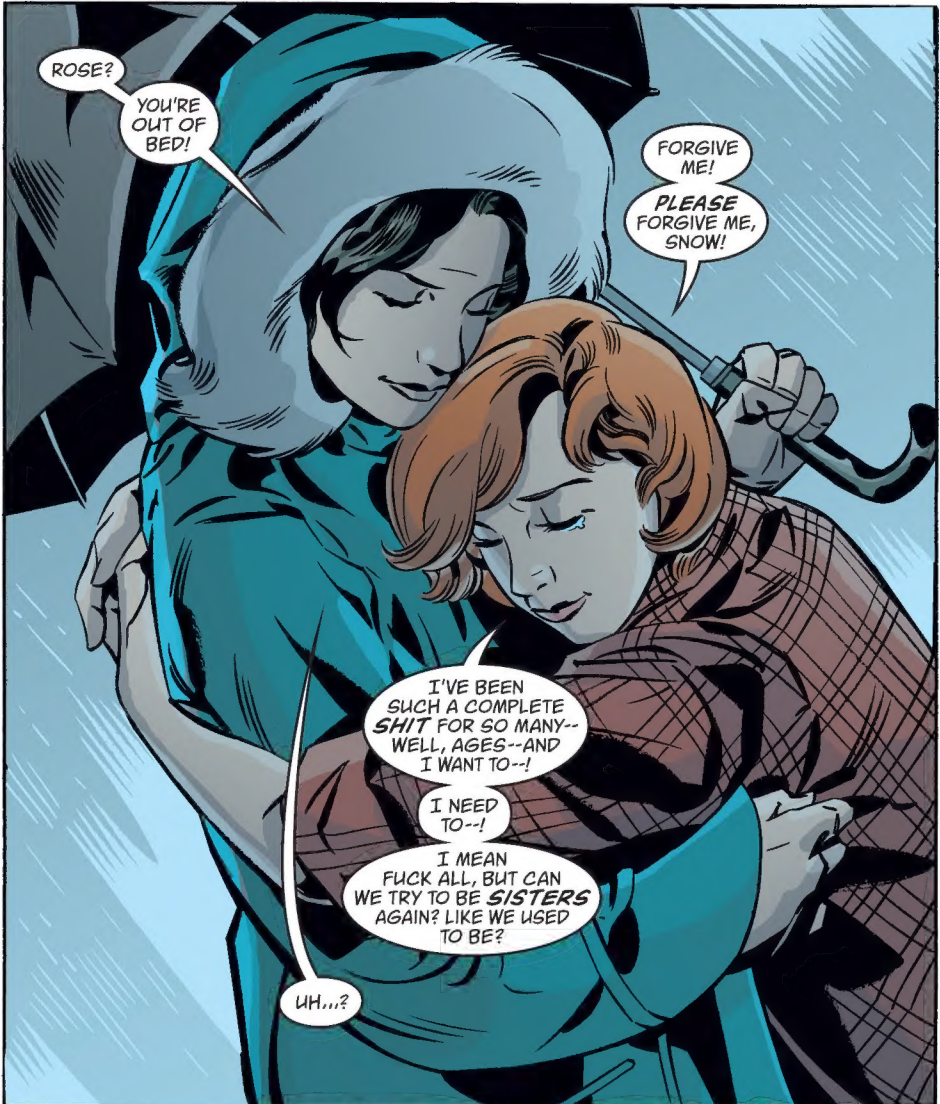
NO, BIGBY WILL ALREADY KNOW I'M HERE. SO, CATCH ME UP ON WHAT HAPPENED WHILE I WAS GONE.





SNOW!

YOU'RE BACK!



ROSE?

YOU'RE OUT OF BED!

FORGIVE ME!

PLEASE FORGIVE ME, SNOW!

I'VE BEEN SUCH A COMPLETE SHIT FOR SO MANY-- WELL, AGES--AND I WANT TO--!

I NEED TO--!

I MEAN FUCK ALL, BUT CAN WE TRY TO BE SISTERS AGAIN? LIKE WE USED TO BE?

UH...?

NEXT: THE DELICATE ART OF NEGOTIATING PRIVATE DUELS WITH GODLIKE MONSTERS!

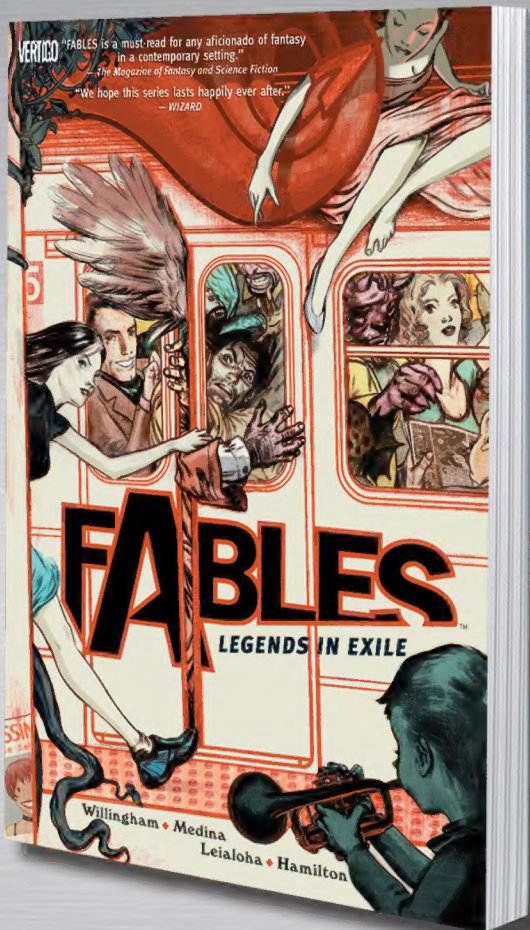
"FABLES is an excellent series in the tradition of SANDMAN, one that rewards careful attention and loyalty." – ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

BILL WILLINGHAM

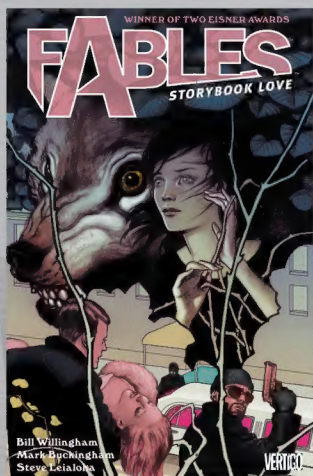
"[A] wonderfully twisted concept... features fairy tale characters banished to the noirish world of present-day New York."
– THE WASHINGTON POST



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- VOL. 5: THE MEAN SEASONS
- VOL. 6: HOMELANDS
- VOL. 7: ARABIAN NIGHTS (AND DAYS)
- VOL. 8: WOLVES
- VOL. 9: SONS OF EMPIRE
- VOL. 10: THE GOOD PRINCE
- VOL. 11: WAR AND PIECES
- VOL. 12: THE DARK AGES
- VOL. 13: THE GREAT FABLES CROSSOVER
- 1001 NIGHTS OF SNOWFALL



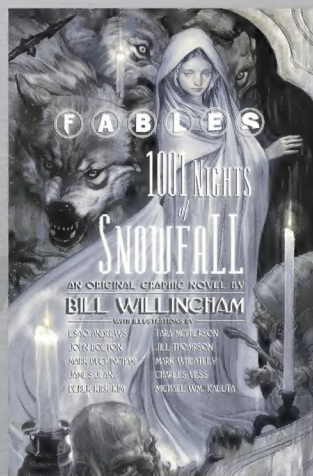
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